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THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Jewish Criminality in New York.

POLICE COMMISSIONER T. A. BINGHAM, of New York, has authorized the publication of the following statement in relation to his article on "Foreign Criminals in New York" which appeared in our last number:

"My attention has been called to a serious complaint, made by Jewish citizens concerning a passage in an article recently published in THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, entitled 'Foreign Criminals in New York,' in which I said that, under existing conditions, 'it is not astonishing that with a million Hebrews, mostly Russian, in the city (one-fourth of the population) perhaps half of the criminals should be of that race,' and in which comment was made on the percentage of Jewish boys in the House of Refuge.

"My purpose in writing the article was not to publish statistics, nor to enter upon a scientific inquiry into the race or religion of those charged with criminality, but solely to make a plea for a secret-service fund in order that criminality might be more effectively dealt with than is now possible.

"To indicate the necessity for additional weapons to cope with crime, it was pointed out that crimes of various kinds are committed by those of our population who are of foreign origin which cannot be adequately reached by the police force as now constituted. It was only incidentally that the remarks were made which have been challenged.

"The figures used in the article were not compiled by myself, but were furnished me by others, and were unfortunately assumed to be correct. It now appears, however, that these figures were unreliable. Hence it becomes my duty frankly to say so and repudiate them.

"The idea which I sought to impress was that the number of foreigners with whom the police come in contact is very large, and that a special knowledge of racial customs and manners is essential to the attainment of the best results by the police in the investigations of crimes committed by and against those of foreign origin.

"The percentage given of Jewish boys in the House of Refuge is, it appears, also misleading. This proportion of boys, it is now pointed out,

should be considered not solely in relation to the total number of boys in the House of Refuge, but with reference to the total number of boys in all similar institutions where boys of this age and of other races and faiths are sent. The proportion of Jewish boys considered in relation to the inmates of other like institutions would be, of course, radically different.

"In view of all this, and of the fact that many estimable citizens feel hurt by what I wrote without the slightest malice, prejudice or unfriendliness, for I have none, I withdraw the statements challenged frankly and without reserve. I shall look forward with interest to the result of the research of the committee of representative citizens which is now engaged in making an accurate and exhaustive study of this whole question, and shall be glad to meet them."